

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2026 - 2029

Perth and Kinross

Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

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Foreword

As convener of Perth and Kinross Council's Housing and Social Wellbeing Committee, I am pleased to introduce this Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth and Kinross, which sets out a clear and shared vision for improving safety, resilience and wellbeing across our communities.

This Plan reflects the strength of partnership working at a local level to address risk and deliver better outcomes for everyone.

Strong partnerships are central to everything we do in Perth and Kinross. By working collaboratively, sharing intelligence and focusing on prevention and early intervention, we can better protect vulnerable residents and build stronger, more resilient communities.

This joined-up approach is especially important given the size and diverse nature of Perth and Kinross, which includes urban, rural and remote communities, each with individual risks and challenges.

Recent incidents serve as a stark reminder of why this work is so important.

Significant fires, including those at 41 Scott Street and the former Balhousie School, both in Perth, have had a real impact on our communities and reinforce the need for continued vigilance and partnership action to prevent harm and respond effectively when emergencies occur.

However, fire is only one part of the risk landscape we face.

As highlighted in this Plan, non-fire emergencies such as flooding, severe weather and water-related incidents remain a major concern across Perth and Kinross.

Water safety, in particular, continues to be a key priority, given the extensive rivers and lochs in our area and the risks they present to residents and visitors alike.

Major transport routes also pass through Perth and Kinross, where high volumes of traffic bring an increased risk of serious collisions.

This plan demonstrates our shared commitment to prevention, preparedness and community resilience.

By continuing to work together, we can ensure that Perth and Kinross remains a safe place to live, work and visit, now and in the years ahead.

Councillor T McEwan

Introduction

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth and Kinross.

This Plan has been developed to support the delivery of agreed local outcomes for Perth and Kinross communities and is aligned with the national priorities set out within the SFRS Strategy 2025–2028 and the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2022.

Working in partnership to improve community safety, wellbeing and resilience, this Plan outlines the key priorities for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service across Perth and Kinross over the next three years. The Plan supports the ambitions contained within the Perth and Kinross Community Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) and reflects a shared commitment to reducing inequality, supporting vulnerable people, strengthening communities and improving resilience.

Perth and Kinross is one of the largest local authority areas in Scotland, encompassing a diverse mix of urban, rural and remote communities. This creates a varied operational and community risk profile, including challenges associated with road safety, flooding, wildfire, severe weather, water safety and emergency response across remote and access-deprived communities.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service responds to a broad range of emergencies and continues to adapt to meet changing risks and demands. Alongside maintaining an effective operational response capability, we recognise the importance of prevention, preparedness and early intervention in reducing harm and supporting safer communities.

Prevention remains central to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's legislative responsibilities and wider contribution to public service reform. Through targeted prevention activity, partnership working and community engagement, we will continue to support those most vulnerable to fire and other emergencies while contributing to wider health, wellbeing and resilience outcomes.

As a public service organisation and statutory partner within the Community Planning Partnership, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is committed to working collaboratively with local communities, Perth and Kinross Council, NHS Tayside, Police Scotland, voluntary organisations and other partners to improve outcomes across Perth and Kinross.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service also recognises the impact of climate change and the increasing frequency of severe weather events, flooding and wildfire incidents. Through operational preparedness, community resilience activity and partnership planning arrangements, we will continue to support local communities to become safer, more resilient and better prepared for emergencies and disruption.

This Local Fire and Rescue Plan sets out how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will contribute towards safer communities, stronger partnerships and improved outcomes for the people of Perth and Kinross.

National Context and Challenges

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in the [Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2022](#). This Framework provides SFRS with seven strategic priorities and objectives, together with guidance on how the delivery of our functions should contribute to the Scottish Government's Purpose.

The Framework also defines the SFRS purpose as:

'To work in partnership with communities and with others in the public, private and third sectors on prevention, protection and response to improve the safety and wellbeing of people throughout Scotland.'

The SFRS Strategy 2025-28 has been designed to have regard to these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop, our Strategy supports delivery of our Purpose, Mission and Vision.

To achieve our ambitions, we have identified five strategic objectives and outcomes. Each objective holds equal value in driving our Strategy forward. As a collective, they define our overall direction and will be central to how we plan our activities and our budget over the next three years.

OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME
Safer Communities through Prevention	Through our work with communities and other organisations, the safety and wellbeing of the people of Scotland improves.
Safe and Effective Response	We are an effective and trusted Fire and Rescue Service where our communities and people are safe.
Investing in our People	Our people feel valued and are supported by a culture that embraces diversity and inclusion, empowerment and accountability.
Improving Performance	Our organisational performance, productivity and resilience continually improves.
Innovation and Investment	We are more innovative and achieve sustained investment in our technology, equipment, estate and fleet, making us more effective and efficient.

This Plan is a statutory Local Fire and Rescue Plan. It sets local direction to meet the strategic objectives and outcomes outlined above; and supports delivery of the SFRS Prevention Strategy. It demonstrates how we will contribute to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) within the Local Authority area.

National Challenges

Over the next three years, the SFRS will operate within a challenging and rapidly evolving national context. This Local Fire and Rescue Plan is developed against a backdrop of sustained financial pressure, changing community risk, and the need for organisational change to ensure services remain effective, sustainable and focused on prevention.

SFRS continues to face real-terms financial constraints despite funding uplifts, with rising costs, inflationary pressures and a substantial backlog in capital investment. Ageing fire stations, fleet and operational systems require modernisation, while the Service must also deliver recurring savings. This national financial environment directly shapes decisions about service delivery models, asset rationalisation and the prioritisation of resources at local level.

Workforce capacity remains a critical national challenge. Recruitment, retention and availability, particularly within the retained duty system are under increasing pressure, especially in rural and remote communities. Supporting staff wellbeing, skills, training and leadership capacity is essential to maintaining safe and reliable emergency response while adapting to new and emerging risks.

The risk profile across Scotland is changing. While accidental dwelling fires continue to decline, demand is increasing from climate-related incidents such as flooding, wildfires and extreme weather events. These incidents are often prolonged, complex and resource-intensive, requiring increased resilience, specialist capability and effective multi-agency coordination. At the same time, demographic change, health inequalities and housing conditions continue to drive vulnerability and risk within communities.

Prevention remains at the core of SFRS's national and local approach. Reducing harm, protecting vulnerable people and building community resilience are central to managing demand and delivering long-term public value. This requires strong collaboration with partners across health, social care, local government and the third sector.

The SFRS Prevention Strategy 2025–2028 sets out a clear ambition to reduce harm, protect firefighters and communities, and manage demand through a universal prevention offer delivered proportionately according to risk, vulnerability and inequality. Local Fire and Rescue Plans are a key mechanism for delivering the Prevention Strategy at local level. They translate national prevention priorities into locally tailored actions, ensuring that community safety engagement, protection and preparedness activity is informed by local risk profiles, partnership intelligence and community need.

In response to some of the challenges we face, SFRS is progressing its Strategic Service Review Programme (SSRP). A priority for the next three-years, SSRP will focus on providing firefighters with modern facilities, fleet and equipment to enhance community and firefighter safety, how and where we deliver our services from, and ensuring our corporate services are as efficient and effective as possible. These changes are necessary to ensure resources are targeted where risk is greatest, while maintaining public confidence and local accountability.

This Local Fire and Rescue Plan translates this national context into local priorities, reflecting the specific risks, needs and characteristics of communities. It sets out how SFRS will work with partners to deliver prevention, protection and response activities in a way that supports safer communities while contributing to the Service's wider strategic aims for Scotland.

By focusing on prevention, collaboration and early intervention, this Plan supports public service reform and delivers better outcomes for our local communities.

Local Context

Perth and Kinross is one of Scotland's largest local authority areas, covering approximately 5,300 square kilometres and encompassing a diverse range of urban, rural and remote communities. The area stretches from the Highland Boundary Fault in the south to remote rural communities in Highland Perthshire and includes significant transport corridors, waterways, agricultural land and tourism destinations.

The estimated population of Perth and Kinross is approximately 153,000, with many communities experiencing the challenges associated with rurality, access to services and demographic change. The area includes a growing older population alongside communities experiencing deprivation, inequality and social vulnerability.



The Perth and Kinross Community Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) identifies reducing inequality, tackling climate change, supporting community resilience and improving wellbeing as key strategic priorities. It also recognises that over 21% of the population live within some of the most access-deprived areas in Scotland.

Perth and Kinross presents a varied operational risk profile for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Major transport routes including the A9, A85 and A90 corridors experience high traffic volumes and present an increased risk of serious Road Traffic Collisions and transport-related incidents.

The area's extensive river systems, lochs and rural landscape also increase the potential for flooding, water-related emergencies and wildfire incidents. Climate change continues to influence operational demand across Perth and Kinross, with increased frequency of severe weather events and flooding incidents affecting communities, infrastructure and businesses.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service remains committed to supporting safer and more resilient communities through prevention, protection and preparedness activity.

Perth and Kinross is served by a combination of wholtime, retained duty system and volunteer fire stations which provide emergency response capability across urban, rural and remote communities. The area also benefits from specialist operational capabilities including water rescue, wildfire response and resilience assets.

As a statutory partner within the Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership and the Tayside Local Resilience Partnership, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will continue to work collaboratively with partner agencies, communities and voluntary organisations to improve public safety, reduce risk and strengthen community resilience

Performance Scrutiny

The SFRS strategic direction is set by the Fire and Rescue Service Framework for Scotland. Scottish Ministers set out their expectations for the Service using this Framework - setting the overarching strategic direction for the SFRS. National SFRS performance is reported back to Scottish Government on an annual basis, providing data and evidence to demonstrate progress towards each of the seven “Strategic Priorities” contained in the Framework.

In order to meet the expectations of the Framework, the SFRS produces a Strategy in every three-year period. The current Strategy for 2025–2028 outlines how we as a Service will deliver against our priorities, deliver against desired outcomes in local communities and make a greater contribution to the communities we serve.

To address the requirements of the Strategy, the Local Senior Officer (LSO) is required to develop a Local Fire and Rescue Plan (LFRP) for their areas of responsibility. Each LSO area has the opportunity to focus on priorities in the Strategy and those more acute priorities that impact on the safety and wellbeing of those communities within the LSO area.

The LFRP is endorsed by the Local Authority prior to publishing, and it is the key priorities in this document that will be used by the Housing and Social Wellbeing Committee locally to interrogate local SFRS performance across the Perth and Kinross area where we will present a performance report on an annual basis.

We have completed a review of our priorities and performance in the previous LFRP for Perth and Kinross. The outcomes of the review along with an assessment of the challenges we face and the opportunities for change have been incorporated into the set of priorities detailed in this Plan.



Local Priorities

It is important to recognise the interconnection between this Local Fire and Rescue Plan and the wider partnership priorities contained within the Perth and Kinross Community Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan).

The priorities within this Plan support wider partnership ambitions relating to community safety, resilience, reducing inequality, protecting vulnerable people, climate adaptation and improving wellbeing.

Maintaining awareness of partnership priorities throughout the lifespan of the Plan will support collaborative working, encourage innovation and ensure opportunities for prevention and early intervention are maximised.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will continue to work closely with partners through the Community Planning Partnership, Tayside Local Resilience Partnership and wider local partnership arrangements to improve outcomes for communities across Perth and Kinross.

Priority 1.	Improving fire safety and unintentional harm in the home
Priority 2.	Improving fire safety and resilience in the business community
Priority 3.	Reducing deliberate fires
Priority 4.	Mitigate the impact of non-fire emergencies
Priority 5.	Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals and false alarms
Priority 6.	Enhance operational preparedness and community resilience

	SFRS Local Area Plan Priorities					
Perth and Kinross Community Plan Outcomes	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Priority 6
Reducing Poverty	✓		✓	✓		✓
Physical and Mental Wellbeing	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Digital Participation		✓			✓	✓
Learning and Development	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Employability		✓				✓

Local Priorities

1. Improving fire safety and unintentional harm in the home

Background:

Fire safety within the home is a key prevention priority for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), as domestic fires can have significant impacts on individuals, families, landlords, communities and partner organisations. Responding to and managing the consequences of these incidents places considerable demand on resources, making it essential that prevention activity is evidence-based and targeted to safeguard those most at risk.

Analysis of accidental dwelling fire data shows that cooking is the leading cause of domestic fires in Perth and Kinross and the most common cause of fire-related injuries. Individuals at greater risk often have additional vulnerabilities related to age, health or mobility and may already be supported by partner agencies. Preventative activity will focus on raising fire safety awareness to encourage positive behaviour change, increasing the presence of working smoke detection to provide early warning, and utilising assistive technologies such as community alarms to further enhance the safety of those most at risk.

It is not uncommon for individuals at risk from fire to also be vulnerable to other injuries within the home, particularly those resulting from slips, trips and falls. Requests for SFRS assistance to support partner agencies, continue to increase. Data analysis highlights that falls are a leading cause of accidental injury and death and account for a significant proportion of hospital admissions, often involving individuals with additional medical conditions such as dementia. Therefore, we will focus on working collaboratively with partners to safeguard Perth and Kinross's most vulnerable individuals and communities. We will enhance our contribution to the wider prevention agenda by supporting partners to identify, mitigate and manage broader home-based safety risks for occupants.

The SFRS has an important role in contributing to the protection of vulnerable individuals within the home. Through operational attendances and the delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits, there are opportunities to identify those at risk and following appropriate assessment, consider appropriate interventions to limit or mitigate the risk to them. As of the start of 2025, the SFRS are delivering a more targeted visit to high-risk individuals who meet a new eligibility criteria, incorporating wider health and social care issues. This is based around factors which we know increases someone's risk of fire (fire fatality research). We have also reviewed and updated our visit content and are exploring ways to strengthen onward referrals and signposting to and from partner organisations, as we know from experience that individuals involved in fatal and serious fires are often known to partner organisations, but not SFRS.

We will achieve it by:

- Undertaking Home Fire Safety Visits to those deemed at most risk from fire.
- Maximising the Home Fire Safety Visit programme to identify non-fire-related risks of injury and harm, working collaboratively with partners across Perth and Kinross to share intelligence and deliver targeted interventions that protect vulnerable and at-risk individuals.

- Focusing engagement activities in those areas where service demand has been identified and deliver key safety messaging.

Performance Indicators:

- **Number of Home Fire Safety Visits conducted**
SFRS aims to refocus our preventative activities to address issues of social, economic and health inequalities. Fire Fatalities is the most severe outcome of any fire and reducing this occurring is a key goal.
- **Number of fire fatalities**
SFRS aims to refocus our preventative activities to address issues of social, economic and health inequalities. Fire Fatalities is the most severe outcome of any fire and reducing this occurring is a key goal.
- **Number of fire casualties**
SFRS aims to refocus our preventative activities to address issues of social, economic and health inequalities and sustained behaviour change in the home. This should reflect reduced victims of fire.
- **Total number of accidental dwelling fires**
SFRS has committed to preventing problems from arising by engaging with partners and communities to reduce risk and encourage positive behavioural change within homes

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Deliver a targeted Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) programme focused on high-risk and vulnerable individuals.
- Undertake intensive partnership engagement to identify vulnerability and generate referrals through MATAC, Adult Support and Protection (ASP), and Health & Social Care partners, strengthening safeguarding pathways.
- Deliver risk recognition training to partners (e.g. Police Community Teams and wider practitioners via webinars), enhancing early identification of at-risk individuals and improving referral pathways into SFRS prevention services.
- Provide targeted community safety interventions for high-risk groups, including tailored programmes for asylum seekers, care-experienced young people, and vulnerable households, incorporating fire, water, and personal safety messaging.
- Deliver youth engagement and early intervention programmes (FireSkills, school inputs, Safe Taysiders, road safety/Fatal 5 initiatives), supporting behaviour change and reducing future fire risk within the home.
- Strengthen community outreach and inclusion activity, including charity partnerships, sheltered housing visits following incidents, early years safety education pilots, and public engagement events across Perth and Kinross, Angus and Dundee.

Preparedness:

- Enhance operational intelligence (OI) through inspections, notifications and collaboration with operational crews, ensuring risks within domestic and residential premises are identified and shared.
- Participate in multi-agency groups and initiatives (e.g. dangerous/vacant buildings groups, licensing engagement, student accommodation reviews), mitigating risks that can impact on community and domestic fire safety.

Expected Outcomes:

- We aim to deliver a sustained annual reduction in accidental dwelling fires and accidental dwelling fire casualties within Perth and Kinross, when compared to the three-year average.
- We aim to safeguard the wellbeing and safety of Perth and Kinross's population by working collaboratively with partner agencies and the efficient sharing of information.
- We aim to support and promote independent living for vulnerable individuals across communities.
- We aim to reduce the social and economic impacts arising from unintentional harm and injury in the home, including from fires and fire-related injuries.
- We aim to reduce operational demand on the SFRS and partner agencies through effective prevention and early intervention.

Delivering Against Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2022-32 Priorities:

- Reducing Poverty
- Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- Learning and Development

Delivering Against SFRS Strategic Objectives:

- *Safe and Effective Response*
- *Safer Communities through Prevention*
- *Investing in our People*
- *Improving Performance*
- *Innovation and Investment*

2. Improving fire safety and resilience in the business community

Background:

Generally, all workplaces and businesses are classed as non-domestic premises and therefore fall within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. The Act places legal duties on those responsible for such premises to comply with fire safety legislation and associated regulations.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has a statutory duty to promote fire safety and, where necessary, enforce compliance. This duty is discharged through a proportionate approach that prioritises advice and education, supported by formal enforcement where required.

Given the wide range of premises covered by the Act, the SFRS operates a fire safety enforcement framework based on risk. This approach combines risk assessment with historical fire data across occupancy types to inform the fire safety audit programme. Premises identified as presenting a higher life risk from fire are subject to regular audits to verify compliance with legislation.

Following a non-domestic building fire, our dedicated Protection Officers will continue to audit relevant premises to ensure they are complying with their statutory responsibilities and to give advice to prevent any further incidents.

Fire can have a devastating impact on businesses, employment, critical services and the areas culture and heritage. Evidence indicates that businesses affected by serious fires face a high likelihood of failure. Through delivery of its audit programme, the SFRS will support Perth and Kinross's economic recovery by helping to protect businesses, sustain employment, and safeguard the city's valued people and assets.

We will achieve it by:

- Undertaking our fire safety audit programme in accordance with the SFRS Enforcement Framework.
- Engaging with duty holders to promote responsible fire safety management of premises that come under the auspices of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.
- Working in partnership to ensure the appropriate provision of fire safety standards are incorporated in new premises under construction or premises undergoing material changes.
- Working in partnership with other enforcement agencies and organisations to support legislative compliance.

Performance Indicators:

- **Number of fires in non-domestic buildings (as defined in Part 3 of Fire (Scotland) Act 2005)**
SFRS aims to support business owners to protect Scotland's non-domestic buildings and premises and this means driving down non-domestic fires.
- **Number of fire safety audits completed in accordance with Fire Safety Enforcement Framework**
The KPI measures the number of audits undertaken within the Service during the period against the number identified by LSO area at the commencement of a year. The Local Enforcement Delivery Plans are the responsibility of the LSO and area to complete which will identify the

premises that require auditing for that year in accordance with the perceived risk. Overall, it demonstrates the effective delivery of enforcement in non-domestic premises in the Service.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Deliver targeted engagement with business communities and duty holders, promoting awareness of fire safety responsibilities under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and encouraging effective fire risk management practices.
- Provide joint community safety messaging through partnership activity, including multi-agency events, Safety Advisory Group (SAG) engagement, and large public events to promote safety in business, leisure and licensed premises.
- Strengthen partnership working with Local Authorities, licensing teams and housing providers, offering early advice and guidance to applicants to ensure fire safety measures are embedded from the outset of business operations.
- Promote shared learning and best practice through multi-agency groups, business forums and community partnerships, including vacant and derelict building groups and city centre initiatives

Protection:

- Deliver a risk-based fire safety audit programme, including a high volume of HMO and high-risk premises audits, ensuring compliance with fire safety legislation and prioritising premises presenting the greatest life risk.
- Undertake targeted enforcement activity, including the use, monitoring and removal of prohibition notices and formal action plans to address serious fire safety deficiencies within non-domestic premises.
- Maintain enhanced audit capacity and capability, supported by increased Protection staffing and upskilling of Fire Safety Enforcement Officers, improving delivery against enforcement frameworks.
- Support premises following fire or identified deficiencies, providing advice and guidance to secure compliance and prevent recurrence, including improvements to detection systems and fire safety infrastructure.
- Contribute to multi-agency enforcement and compliance activity, including licensing inspections and partnership work with Local Authorities and external risk assessors.
- Develop and maintain Operational Intelligence (OI) for business premises, ensuring risk-critical information is available to operational crews and supporting safe and effective emergency response.
- Engage in emerging risk management, including participation in specialist working groups (e.g. Battery Energy Storage Systems - BESS) and high-rise building safety improvements.

Preparedness:

- Participate in multi-agency planning, exercising and event preparedness, including stadium exercises, SAG planning for large-scale events, and partnership engagement to ensure safe business operations.
- Strengthen collaboration with partners (Local Authorities, Police Scotland, housing providers and event organisers) to support coordinated emergency response and business continuity.
- Support continuous improvement through inspection, audit outcomes and operational learning, feeding back into planning, guidance and engagement activity to reduce future risk.
- Enhance preparedness for high-risk premises and emerging threats, including high-rise buildings, high-occupancy residential premises, and new accommodation types.

- Contribute to resilience planning and large event safety through attendance at SAGs and direct site inspections for venues such as sports stadiums and major public events.
- Ensure alignment between Protection, Prevention and Response functions, allowing intelligence-led decision making and strengthening overall organisational resilience.

Expected Outcomes:

- We aim to deliver a sustained annual reduction in fires within non-domestic premises across Perth and Kinross when compared to the three-year average.
- We aim to support the industrial, commercial and service sectors in maintaining business continuity and sustaining employment within Perth and Kinross.
- We aim to reduce the risk of loss of life and injury resulting from fire.
- We aim to protect Perth and Kinross's cultural assets and heritage.
- We aim to safeguard the natural and built environment and minimise the impact of fire on communities.

Delivering Against Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2022-32 Priorities:

- Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- Digital Participation
- Employability

Delivering Against SFRS Strategic Objectives:

- *Safer Communities through Prevention*
- *Safe and Effective Response*
- *Improving Performance*
- *Innovation and Investment*
- *Investing in our People.*

3. Reducing deliberate fires

Background:

Deliberate fire setting continues to present a significant challenge for communities, partner agencies and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). Deliberate fires can place individuals at risk of injury, impact community wellbeing, damage property and the environment, and create unnecessary demand on emergency service resources.

Across Perth and Kinross, deliberate fires can occur within a range of environments including refuse containers, vehicles, open land, derelict buildings and rural areas. Deliberate fire setting is often associated with antisocial behaviour and can have a disproportionate impact upon communities, particularly those already experiencing social inequality or vulnerability.

The rural geography and natural environment within Perth and Kinross also increases the potential impact of deliberate fires involving grassland, forestry and open countryside. Periods of prolonged dry weather and changing climate conditions continue to increase the risk of wildfire incidents which can threaten communities, infrastructure, agriculture and the environment.

The Perth and Kinross Community Plan identifies community safety, resilience and reducing inequality as key strategic priorities. SFRS will continue to work collaboratively with Police Scotland, Perth and Kinross Council, community justice partners, educational establishments and local communities to reduce deliberate fire setting and address the underlying causes of fire-related antisocial behaviour.

The SFRS Prevention Strategy 2025–2028 highlights the importance of targeted prevention, partnership working and community engagement in reducing risk and improving community wellbeing. Through evidence-led prevention activity, operational intelligence and partnership working, SFRS will continue to identify those communities most affected by deliberate fires and deliver targeted interventions to reduce harm.

Education and early intervention remain central to reducing deliberate fire setting behaviour. SFRS will continue to engage with children and young people through prevention and educational programmes designed to raise awareness of the risks and consequences associated with deliberate fires and antisocial behaviour.

We will achieve it by:

- Identifying communities and locations affected by deliberate fire setting through the use of Operational Intelligence, incident data and partnership information.
- Working collaboratively with Police Scotland, Perth and Kinross Council and partner agencies to reduce deliberate fire setting and antisocial behaviour.
- Delivering targeted prevention and engagement activity within communities affected by deliberate fires.
- Supporting educational programmes and early intervention activity with children and young people.
- Promoting wildfire awareness and responsible behaviour within rural and outdoor environments.
- Using partnership working and community engagement to support safer and more resilient communities.

- Supporting the identification and management of vacant and derelict properties which present increased fire risk.

Performance Indicators:

- **Number of deliberate primary fires**
SFRS aims to improve community safety and wellbeing within the domestic environment, as well as reduce significant impact on communities and partner agencies caused by deliberate primary fires.
- **Number of deliberate secondary fires**
SFRS aims to improve community safety and wellbeing by reducing deliberate secondary fire setting and fire-related anti-social behaviour and the significant demand on SFRS and partner agency resources.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Deliver targeted youth engagement and early intervention programmes (e.g. FireSkills courses, FSSE delivery, school inputs and drill competitions) to educate and divert young people from fire-setting behaviour and anti-social activity.
- Undertake extensive school and community engagement activity, including large-scale inputs aligned to seasonal risks (e.g. Bonfire Night programmes and Dundee Roadshow across schools and colleges).
- Support multi-agency Fire Related ASB initiatives with Police Scotland and Local Authorities, including targeted interventions in high-risk areas and coordinated activity across schools and communities.
- Deliver joint operations and prevention campaigns (e.g. Operation Moonbeam), using intelligence-led engagement and partnership working to significantly reduce deliberate fire incidents and disorder.
- Provide community-based engagement events and outreach activity, including summer programmes, open days, fun days and charity initiatives, strengthening relationships and promoting positive behaviour.
- Use locally developed media campaigns and social media messaging (e.g. Dundee safety video project) to reinforce awareness of the consequences and risks of deliberate fire setting.
- Engage targeted cohorts and vulnerable groups linked to anti-social behaviour, providing tailored education and support to encourage long-term behaviour change.
- Support risk reduction through partnership working with Local Authorities and Police Scotland, including participation in vacant and derelict building groups to identify and secure premises at risk of fire-related anti-social behaviour.
- Support post-incident review and learning, ensuring risks associated with deliberate fires are identified and mitigated through ongoing protection and prevention measures.

Protection:

- Provide fire safety advice and intervention at identified high-risk sites, including vacant buildings, refuse storage areas and premises linked to repeated deliberate fire incidents.
- Contribute to multi-agency inspections and environmental risk reduction activity, supporting the removal of combustible materials and improving site security in areas prone to deliberate fire setting.
- Work collaboratively to reduce ignition opportunities, including engagement around waste management, bonfire material uplift and identification of unsafe firework storage locations.

Preparedness:

- Strengthen multi-agency preparedness and coordination through structured planning and tactical engagement for known high-risk periods (e.g. Bonfire Night), supported by shared intelligence documents and operational briefings.
- Maintain effective Operational Intelligence (OI) by identifying high-risk locations (e.g. derelict buildings, repeat incident sites) and ensuring this information is available to crews.
- Develop and implement joint operational plans with partners, enhancing readiness for spikes in deliberate fire activity and ensuring coordinated response arrangements.
- Support training and exercising opportunities with partners to ensure preparedness for public disorder, anti-social behaviour and fire-related incidents in communities.
- Enhance preparedness through data-led and intelligence-driven approaches, identifying trends, targeting interventions and monitoring reductions in secondary fires across Perth and Kinross, Angus and Dundee.
- Promote community resilience and awareness, ensuring communities are better informed, able to report risks and contribute to reducing deliberate fire activity.
- Align prevention, protection and response functions to ensure a coordinated and proactive approach to reducing deliberate fires, improving public safety and reducing operational demand.

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in deliberate fires and fire-related antisocial behaviour across Perth and Kinross.
- Improved community safety, wellbeing and resilience.
- Increased awareness of the risks and consequences associated with deliberate fire setting.
- Enhanced partnership working and targeted intervention activity.
- Reduced environmental impact arising from deliberate fires and wildfire incidents.
- Improved protection of communities, infrastructure and the natural environment.

Delivering Against Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2022-32 Priorities:

- Reducing Poverty
- Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- Learning and Development

Delivering Against SFRS Strategic Objectives:

- *Safer Communities through Prevention*
- *Investing in our People*
- *Improving Performance*
- *Innovation and Investment*
- *Safe and Effective Response*

4. Mitigate the impact of non-fire emergencies

Background:

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) responds to a broad and increasingly complex range of non-fire emergencies across Perth and Kinross. These incidents include Road Traffic Collisions, flooding, water rescues, severe weather events, hazardous materials incidents, rescues from height and support to partner agencies during major or prolonged incidents.

Perth and Kinross presents a unique operational risk profile due to its extensive geographical area, varied terrain, rural and remote communities, significant transport infrastructure and changing seasonal population. Major transport routes including the A9 corridor experience high traffic volumes and present an increased risk of serious Road Traffic Collisions and transport-related incidents. The area's extensive river systems, lochs and rural landscape also increase the potential for flooding, water-related emergencies and wildfire incidents.

The Perth and Kinross Community Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) identifies climate change, inequality and community resilience as significant strategic challenges requiring collaborative partnership action. The increasing impact of severe weather events, flooding and climate-related emergencies continues to influence operational demand and community vulnerability across Perth and Kinross. It is estimated that approximately 8,700 homes and businesses across Perth and Kinross are currently at risk of flooding, with climate change expected to increase the number of properties affected in future years.

The diverse geography of Perth and Kinross also creates challenges in relation to emergency response, service accessibility and community resilience. The LOIP highlights that over 21% of the population live within some of the most access-deprived areas in Scotland, reinforcing the importance of resilient emergency service provision and effective partnership working.

The SFRS Operational Strategy 2022–2032 recognises the need for a flexible and risk-based operational response model aligned to emerging risks, operational learning, innovation and partnership working. SFRS will continue to work closely with partners through the Tayside Local Resilience Partnership, Community Planning Partnership and wider local resilience arrangements to strengthen preparedness, improve interoperability and support safer and more resilient communities.

Prevention, preparedness and community resilience remain central to mitigating the impact of non-fire emergencies. Through targeted engagement, operational preparedness and collaborative partnership working, SFRS will continue to support communities across Perth and Kinross to become safer, more informed and more resilient to emergencies and disruption.

We will achieve it by:

- Maintaining a trained, competent and resilient operational workforce capable of responding safely and effectively to a broad range of non-fire emergencies across urban, rural and remote communities.
- Working collaboratively with partner agencies through local resilience and community planning arrangements to strengthen preparedness, information sharing and coordinated emergency response.

- Supporting community resilience through targeted prevention and engagement activity relating to road safety, water safety, severe weather preparedness and wildfire awareness.
- Continuing to develop operational preparedness and specialist response capabilities for flooding, water rescue, wildfire and major incident response.
- Using operational intelligence, risk information and learning to inform planning, training and deployment of operational resources.
- Supporting local and national resilience arrangements during major incidents, severe weather events and periods of heightened operational demand.
- Working with communities and partner organisations to improve resilience and preparedness within remote and rural areas.

Performance Indicators:

- **Number of non-fire emergency incidents attended (not RTCs)**
SFRS aims to ensure the right resources are available and deployed to meet the changing risks and needs of the local communities.
- **Number of RTCs attended**
SFRS aims to ensure the right resources are available to respond efficiently to RTCs across local communities.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Deliver road safety education and intervention programmes (e.g. Fatal 5 inputs, S6 New Drivers' Scheme, Safe Driver inputs and extrication demonstrations), targeting young and at-risk drivers to reduce casualties from RTCs.
- Lead and support water safety engagement activity, including multi-agency events (e.g. World Drowning Prevention Day), school inputs and awareness campaigns aligned to local water risk profiles.
- Provide community-based safety education across all age groups, including early years road safety pilots, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation awareness in schools and colleges, and targeted inputs to vulnerable groups.
- Deliver multi-agency community safety initiatives with partners such as Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, Red Cross and Local Authorities, strengthening consistent messaging on non-fire risks.
- Engage communities through events, open days, safety demonstrations and outreach campaigns, improving understanding of risks such as severe weather, water hazards and RTCs.
- Support targeted interventions for specific groups, including asylum seeker programmes, community safety roadshows, and employability-based engagement for young adults.
- Use locally developed media and communication tools (e.g. safety videos, social media) to reinforce risk awareness and promote safer behaviours across communities.

Protection:

- Provide specialist advice and support at Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meetings, ensuring appropriate safety measures for large public events and high-risk gatherings.
- Engage with partners to improve safety infrastructure and arrangements, including event planning, traffic management, and water safety measures.

Preparedness:

- Maintain a trained, competent and resilient workforce capable of responding to a wide range of non-fire emergencies, including RTCs, flooding, water rescue and severe weather incidents.
- Strengthen multi-agency preparedness through participation in Local Resilience Partnerships, joint planning, and coordinated operational activity with Police Scotland, SAS and Local Authorities.
- Deliver and participate in multi-agency training and exercises, including stadium exercises and joint emergency response scenarios to enhance interoperability.
- Develop and maintain robust operational intelligence and risk information, ensuring emerging risks (e.g. climate-related incidents, water hazards) are captured and communicated effectively to crews.
- Support community resilience through targeted preparedness activity, including safety messaging around severe weather, water safety and road use.
- Contribute to strategic planning and risk management for major incidents, ensuring appropriate resources, capabilities and coordination arrangements are in place.
- Align Prevention, Protection and Response functions to ensure a cohesive, intelligence-led approach to mitigating non-fire emergencies and reducing overall impact on communities.

Expected Outcomes:

- Communities are safer, better informed and more resilient to non-fire emergencies.
- Improved multi-agency preparedness and coordinated emergency response arrangements.
- Reduced impact of emergencies on vulnerable individuals, communities and infrastructure.
- Enhanced operational readiness to respond to emerging and climate-related risks.
- Improved community resilience and public safety outcomes across Perth and Kinross.

Delivering Against Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2022-32 Priorities:

- Reducing Poverty
- Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- Learning and Development

Delivering Against Strategic Objective:

- *Safer Communities through Prevention*
- *Investing in our People*
- *Improving Performance*
- *Innovation and Investment*
- *Safe and Effective Response*

5. Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals and false alarms

Background:

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) and false alarms continue to generate significant demand on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service operational resources across Perth and Kinross. These incidents can reduce the availability of fire appliances for genuine emergencies, create unnecessary operational activity and place avoidable demand on both operational personnel and partner agencies.

The diverse risk profile across Perth and Kinross includes a broad range of commercial premises, healthcare facilities, educational establishments, hotels, care settings, industrial sites and public buildings, many of which rely upon automatic fire alarm systems to protect life and property. While these systems play a vital role in community safety, avoidable activations continue to impact operational resilience and service delivery.

Repeated false alarm activations can also lead to complacency amongst occupants and building users, potentially increasing risk during genuine fire emergencies. In addition, unnecessary emergency response activity contributes to increased fuel consumption, environmental impact and firefighter exposure to risk while responding under emergency conditions.

Reducing UFAS and false alarms supports the wider SFRS strategic focus on prevention, improving organisational performance and ensuring resources are aligned effectively to community risk. The SFRS will continue to work collaboratively with businesses, responsible persons and partner organisations to promote good practice in alarm management, maintenance and staff awareness.

Through education, engagement and proportionate intervention, SFRS aims to reduce avoidable operational demand while improving fire safety management and maintaining effective emergency response arrangements across Perth and Kinross.

We will achieve it by:

- Working collaboratively with businesses, duty holders and partner organisations to reduce avoidable false alarm activations.
- Promoting effective management, maintenance and monitoring of automatic fire alarm systems.
- Delivering targeted engagement and education to premises identified as generating repeat Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS).
- Using operational data and trend analysis to identify high-demand premises and emerging patterns.
- Supporting proportionate fire safety enforcement and intervention activity where appropriate.
- Raising awareness of the operational, financial and environmental impact associated with false alarms.
- Encouraging improved ownership and accountability for fire alarm management within commercial and public premises.

Performance Indicators:

- **Number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) incidents attended in non-domestic premises**

SFRS aims to respond more efficiently to false fire alarm calls and improve road safety by reducing the number of blue light journeys we make to them.

- **Number of (non UFAS) False Alarm incidents attended**

SFRS aims to reduce the demand on resources attending false alarm incidents and improve road safety by reducing the number of blue light journeys we make to them.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Deliver targeted engagement with duty holders and premises managers to raise awareness of the causes and impacts of UFAS, promoting improved alarm management, maintenance and staff competence.
- Support multi-agency engagement with housing providers and accommodation operators, including asylum seeker accommodation, to improve fire alarm management and reduce unnecessary activations.
- Use operational crews and Community Action Teams (CAT) to reinforce prevention messaging during routine activity, audits and community interactions, ensuring consistent and ongoing engagement with premises.
- Promote awareness of the wider impacts of false alarms (resource demand, risk to firefighters and public, environmental impact) to support positive behaviour change across the business community.

Protection:

- Provide site-specific engagement with repeat activators, supporting behavioural change and improved practices which have already resulted in reductions at key premises (e.g. upgraded detection systems within student accommodation).
- Deliver partnership messaging through Local Authority and business networks, ensuring consistent communication on UFAS reduction and shared responsibility for risk management.
- Deliver a risk-based audit and inspection programme, focusing on premises with high levels of unwanted fire alarm activations and ensuring compliance with fire safety legislation.
- Provide targeted enforcement and advisory activity where poor fire alarm management is identified, supporting duty holders to implement corrective actions and improve system reliability.
- Work collaboratively with Local Authorities, housing providers and duty holders to improve fire alarm systems, maintenance regimes and management processes, particularly in high-demand premises.
- Support continuous improvement through audit outcomes, with evidence of detection upgrades and system improvements leading to reductions in false alarms at key sites.
- Contribute to multi-agency inspections and licensing processes, influencing early-stage compliance and preventing issues associated with improper alarm installation or management.

Preparedness:

- Maintain accurate and up-to-date risk information for premises generating UFAS, ensuring operational crews can respond appropriately and safely when required.
- Use data and trend analysis to identify repeat activators and emerging issues, informing targeted prevention, protection and engagement activity.
- Support operational preparedness through improved alarm management, reducing unnecessary mobilisations and ensuring resources remain available for genuine emergencies.
- Contribute to SAG planning and event preparedness, ensuring temporary or event-based alarm systems are effectively managed to minimise false activations.
- Align activity across functions to ensure a coordinated, intelligence-led approach to reducing UFAS, improving resilience, efficiency and community safety outcomes.

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in avoidable Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) and false alarms.
- Increased operational availability for genuine emergencies and periods of heightened demand.
- Improved fire safety management within commercial and public premises.
- Reduced unnecessary operational risk and environmental impact.
- Enhanced partnership working and shared responsibility for community safety across Perth and Kinross.

Delivering Against Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2022-32 Priorities:

- Digital Participation
- Learning and Development

Delivering Against SFRS Strategic Objectives:

- *Safer Communities through Prevention*
- *Investing in our People*
- *Improving Performance*
- *Innovation and Investment*
- *Safe and Effective Response*

6. Enhance operational preparedness and community resilience

Background:

We will continually assess the evolving risk landscape within Perth and Kinross, enabling effective planning and a safe, coordinated response to emerging risks. Consistent with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, we will play a key role across the full cycle of civil protection, including the recovery phase, supporting communities and partners to rebuild, recover, and strengthen long term resilience following disruptive incidents.

Operational preparedness is a key area of work for the SFRS. Locally, this means knowing what the risks are in Perth and Kinross and then making plans, so that we are resilient to respond to any event that these risks may bring.

Having the resilience to make plans for and respond to the risk profile of Perth and Kinross is essential for managing the effects of any event. For us, that means:

- Firefighters trained and equipped to respond safely to incidents
- Relevant and Current Operational Intelligence gathered and available at the point of need
- Working closely with our partners during planning, exercising and incidents to resolve and return to normality
- Enhancing training, Personal Protective Equipment, Appliances and Equipment to meet emerging risks such as wildfire and flooding across the area where required
- Contributing to resilience planning, training and exercising with partners to ensure preparedness within Local Resilience Partnerships
- Formulating robust Business Continuity Planning for each of our Community Fire Stations to ensure Service delivery across Perth and Kinross communities during any foreseeable events.
- Sharing risk information with partners to enhance awareness, safety and joint understanding of risk across our communities

SFRS understands that operational preparedness and community resilience develops through close partnership working and our joint understanding of risk, this will assist us in achieving effective, safe response to emergencies across our area, resolve them and return our communities to normality.

We will achieve it by:

- Quarterly scrutiny of training performance in partnership with Training, Safety and Assurance
- Attendance and participation at Community Planning Partnerships and Local Improvement Outcome Meetings
- Scheduled review of risk information and formulation of risk information with new and emerging risks across the area
- Develop communication strategies with partners for sharing risk information to enhance partner and public safety
- Attendance and participation at Local Resilience Partnership Meetings
- In vehicle information upgrades Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Deliver community resilience engagement programmes, including large-scale initiatives such as community safety roadshows, providing education on fire, water, road and personal safety to strengthen public awareness and preparedness.
- Deliver youth development and early intervention initiatives, including FireSkills, Youth Volunteer Scheme and school engagement programmes, promoting life skills, responsible behaviour and long-term community resilience.
- Provide multi-agency community events and awareness campaigns, including water safety initiatives (e.g. World Drowning Prevention Day), road safety demonstrations and seasonal safety messaging to help communities better understand and respond to risk.
- Strengthen community partnerships and local engagement networks, through CAT, Local Area Liaison Officer and station personnel working with third-sector organisations, community groups and Local Authorities to build resilience at a local level.
- Use digital media, targeted campaigns and locally developed resources (e.g. safety videos and translated materials) to ensure safety messaging reaches diverse communities and supports inclusive engagement.

Protection:

- Provide fire safety and risk mitigation advice to partners, including Local Authorities, housing providers and event organisers, contributing to safer environments and improved resilience.
- Engage in multi-agency planning and regulatory processes, including Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs), licensing engagement and high-risk premises reviews, ensuring risks are reduced before incidents occur.
- Contribute to emerging risk management, including high-rise safety work, Battery Energy Storage Systems - BESS working groups and accommodation risk management, ensuring protection activity aligns with evolving threats.
- Support continuous improvement through partnership learning, ensuring risks identified through incidents, audits and engagement activity are addressed through protection measures.

Preparedness:

- Maintain a highly trained and competent workforce, ensuring personnel are equipped to respond safely and effectively to a broad range of incidents, including emerging and climate-related risks.
- Strengthen multi-agency preparedness through Local Resilience Partnerships, joint planning, exercising and coordinated response arrangements with Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, Local Authorities and other partners.
- Deliver and participate in multi-agency exercises, large event planning and operational demonstrations to enhance interoperability and readiness.
- Develop and maintain robust Operational Intelligence and risk information systems, ensuring risks are identified, recorded (e.g. through OI notifications) and effectively communicated to operational crews.
- Support community-level preparedness through targeted resilience messaging, including severe weather awareness, water safety and emergency preparedness advice.

- Use data, intelligence and performance monitoring to identify emerging risks, inform resource deployment and target prevention activity effectively.
- Align Prevention, Protection and Response functions to ensure a coordinated, intelligence-led approach, improving organisational resilience and enhancing the ability of communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Expected Outcomes:

- We aim to enhance partnership working and shared responsibility for community safety across Perth and Kinross.
- We aim to reduce unnecessary operational risk and the environmental impact.
- We aim to enhance operational readiness to respond to emerging and climate-related risks.
- We aim to work with partners to reduce the impact of significant flooding events on the business community and on local citizens.
- We aim to identify multi-agency learnings from accidental drownings.
- All front-line fire appliances equipped with upgraded in vehicle information systems for Operational intelligence.

Delivering Against Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2022-32 Priorities:

- Reducing Poverty
- Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- Digital Participation
- Learning and Development
- Employability

Delivering Against SFRS Strategic Objectives:

- Investing in our People
- Improving Performance
- Innovation and Investment
- Safe and Effective Response

Review

To ensure this Local Fire and Rescue Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed at least once every three years.

A review may also be carried out if the Scottish Minister directs it or if a new Strategic Plan is approved. Following a review, the Local Senior Officer may revise the Plan.

Contact Us

We are fully committed to continually improving the service we provide to our communities and recognise that to achieve this goal we must listen and respond to the views of the public and our partners.

We use all feedback we receive to monitor our performance and incorporate this information into our planning and governance processes in order to continually improve our service. We are proud that the majority of feedback we receive is positive and we are keen to hear examples of good practice and quality service delivery that exemplifies the standards of service that we strive to provide for the communities of Scotland.

If you have something you would like to share with us or you require additional information, you can get in touch in a number of ways:

Write to: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
 401 High Street
 Perth
 PH1 1PL

Phone: 01738 452100
Visit our website: www.firescotland.gov.uk

Follow us on Twitter @fire_scot

Like us on Facebook: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service



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